

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 184907
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:RPERITO

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:RPERITO

-----011778 061304Z /41

O 061236Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184907

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 3816 ACTION AMMAN INFO SECSTATE AUG5.

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 3816

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) LE

SUBJ: YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS:

COMMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS

1. HAD REVIEW OF YOUR VISIT TO BEIRUT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS MORNING AUGUST 5. HE SAID HE THOUGHT VISIT HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL AND WAS VERY HIGH IN HIS PRAISE OF YOUR PERSONALITY AND OBVIOUS SINCERITY. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT ARABS IN GENERAL WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED WITH FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SETTLEMENT WHICH YOU HAD GIVEN PRESIDENT SARKIS. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS

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IN CAIRO THAT EGYPTIANS AND OTHER ARABS THOUGHT THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH A COMMITMENT TO PEACE CONSIDERABLY LESS EXPLICIT IN TERMS OF NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL THAN THE FIVE PRINCIPLES SEEM TO IMPLY. THERE WAS GENERAL ARAB APPREHENSION THAT ISRAELIS SAW OPEN BORDERS AND AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS A WAY TO EXTEND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE OVER REGION AS A WHOLE.

2. I SAID ARABS SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT NECESSITY FOR FIRM COMMITMENT TO REAL PEACE AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO GET ISRAELIS TO GIVE UP TERRITORY. WE WERE COMMITTED TO SEEKING SETTLEMENT ON BASIS OF TRADING TERRITORY FOR PEACE. IN ORDER FOR US TO HAVE ANY LUCK WITH THIS, ARAB COMMITMENT TO PEACE HAD TO BE CREDIBLE. OTHERWISE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH PRESSURE WE MIGHT WISH TO APPLY, WE WOULD NEVER CONVINCE ISRAELIS TO MAKE THE CONCESSIONS ARABS WERE DEMANDING OF THEM. IF YOUR EFFORTS WERE TO SUCCEED, WE NEEDED ARAB HELP IN THIS RESPECT.

3. I ASKED BOUTROS IF HE WOULD HAVE FOR YOU BY THE END OF AUGUST A TEXT OF THE SORT OF PEACE TREATY LEBANESE WOULD LIKE TO SEE. HE SMILED WRYLY AND SAID HE DOUBTED ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT THEMSELVES ON RECORD IN THIS RESPECT. HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER HE COULD MEET THE REQUEST, MUCH AS HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO DO SO.

4. WE HAD DISCUSSION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. BOUTROS SAID THAT IF IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE HE WOULD WANT TO PARTICIPATE. HE SAID THAT ATTITUDE OF SYRIAN WOULD BE CRUCIAL FOR LEBANON. IF SYRIANS
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PARTICIPATED, LEBANON WOULD PARTICIPATE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEWS FROM DAMASCUS SEEMED UNFAVORABLE IN THIS REGARD. I SAID ALL I HAD TO GO ON WAS A BBC REPORT WHICH SAID THAT ASAD HAD SAID THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD NOT MEET WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK IN ADVANCE OF GENEVA. I SAID I DID NOT THINK THAT WAS NATURE OF PROPOSAL. YOU HAD SAID THAT IF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WANTED, MEETING WITH ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK COULD BE ARRANGED. PURPOSE OF WORKING GROUP, HOWEVER, SEEMED TO BE TO FACILITATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN PARTIES CONCERNED BY HAVING THEM ALL IN SAME TOWN AT SAME TIME. YOU HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS TO BE INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED. THE SORT OF CONTINUOUS CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES WHICH WERE REQUIRED IF WE WERE TO HAVE SETTLEMENT COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED NEARLY AS EASILY IF YOU HAD TO FLY FROM CAPITAL TO CAPITAL AS IT COULD IF EVERYONE WAS IN THE SAME TOWN.

5. BOUTROS THEN ASKED IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR TALKS IN DAMASCUS. I SAID WE HAD NONE TO DATE. HE RECALLED THAT YOU HAD PROMISED TO RAISE

WITH BOTH THE SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS THE QUESTION OF
THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS A UN FORCE IN THE SOUTH. HE
NEEDED TO HAVE SOME INDICATION OF SYRIAN ATTITUDE BEFORE HE
SAW SYRIANS NEXT WEEK. I SAID I WOULD SEND MESSAGE
ASKING WHAT WE COULD TELL HIM.

PARKER

NOTE: BEIRUT 3816 RECATEGORIZED TO NODIS PER STATE 184847.

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PEACE PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE184907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:RPERITO
Enclosure: FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770004-0626
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770889/aaaacxgz.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04f15160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1685150
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS: COMMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS
TAGS: OVIP, PBOR, PDEV, LE, XF, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (BUTRUS, FA'UD)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04f15160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009